

mission will transfer from Air Force Space Command to Air Force Global Strike Command. The pride shared today in the heritage and rich history of the ICBM mission will always be a part of Air Force Space Command's contribution to our national security.

Mr. President, the American people are fortunate to have the dedicated Airmen of 20th Air Force operate, maintain, and secure America's only land-based strategic deterrent 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Air Force on 50 years of the highest commitment in carrying out the ICBM mission.●

ABERDEEN MONUMENT TO FIREFIGHTERS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a special unveiling of the Aberdeen Monument to Firefighters on October 15, 2009. The handsome bronze, carefully crafted by Aberdeen sculptor Benjamin Victor, is a tribute to the firefighters who put their lives on the line and heroically serve with courage, pride and honor. Fully aware that firefighting is inherently dangerous work, these men and women work day and night to save lives, save property and protect the environment.

Benjamin Victor has crafted a spectacular sculpture to commemorate these heroes. It portrays his passion for expression and detail and his natural ability to create unique and inspiring works of art. Ben, at 26 years old, is the youngest artist ever to have a sculpture in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol. Art critics and organizations throughout the country recognize the aesthetic and conceptual integrity of Ben's work. Early on, Aberdeen saw his talent and its citizens are very grateful that he continues to share his talents with their community.

I also want to commend the Aberdeen community for their efforts to make this unveiling possible. Using no tax dollars, the entire funding for this project came from businesses, service clubs, schools, fraternal organizations and individuals in the community who saw the significance of this monument. This contribution by the Aberdeen community and Benjamin Victor will commemorate the important role of our firefighters for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO FATHER ROBERTO BALDUCELLI

● Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, today I recognize the extraordinary contributions of a patriarch of the Italian-American community in my home State of Delaware, Father Roberto Balducci. On Columbus Day, Father Balducci will be honored by the Columbus Communion Breakfast Committee with its Outstanding Achievement Award.

Father Balducci's 96 years on this Earth, while a true gift to all he has served, reads like a novel. As a 9-year-old boy in the small town of Castelluccio, Italy, he decided that he wanted to pursue an ecclesiastical education in Rome. In 1929, at the age of 16, he joined the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. After studying in France and Switzerland, he returned to Italy from September 1939 to March 1946.

During World War II, Father Balducci helped save Italian Jews from persecution. The young priest recovered the bodies of civilians killed in bombing raids, was injured in one of these attacks, and sheltered refugees from Nazi persecution.

After receiving a passport to come to the United States, Father Balducci crossed the Atlantic Ocean over the course of 29 days and arrived in New York on April 10, 1946. The young oblate arrived at St. Anthony's of Padua Church in Wilmington soon after and became the church's first Italian priest. In 1959, he became pastor of St. Anthony's.

As a first-rate mason and a licensed contractor in the State of Delaware, Father Balducci oversaw and helped undertake the renovation of an old public school to meet young Catholic students' educational needs, and he helped establish a new school, called Padua Academy, for girls, as well.

His love of welding helped to build St. Anthony in the Hills in the 1960s, a popular summer retreat and sanctuary for children and their families near Hockessin, DE. On his watch, the parish opened a senior and day care center and expanded the regionally prominent Italian Festival in Delaware. He retired as the church's pastor in 1988.

I am privileged to have known Father Balducci for many years. I look forward to breaking bread with him at the Columbus Communion Breakfast in Wilmington's Little Italy on the day of his special recognition.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Father Balducci's significant accomplishments, which he achieved over the course of a lifetime dedicated to our community. Wilmington and our Italian-American community could not have woven such a fabric of family and strength if it were not for the commitment and foresight of Father Roberto Balducci.●

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I am here today in recognition of National Hunting and Fishing Day, which was recognized on September 26. Hunters and anglers contribute significantly to our Nation's economy. More than 1 million hunters and anglers add over \$3 billion each year into Michigan's economy alone.

From the very beginning, hunting and fishing have been at the center of Michigan's history and culture. Our two great peninsulas, surrounded by

the magnificent Great Lakes, are home to over 8 million acres of public hunting land, tens of thousands of rivers and streams, and some of the best hunting and fishing in the United States. Whether meandering along Hemingway's Fox or Two Hearted Rivers for brook trout and ruffed grouse, or making the annual trip to deer camp with friends and family, Michigan's proud heritage comes with a sense of profound responsibility to protect that legacy for future generations.

We have made some important progress. I have been pleased to spearhead a number of efforts including Federal funding to stop the invasive cormorant from destroying our fisheries. This project has already shown conclusive results in bringing back once-decimated fishing areas. Through my work on the Senate Agriculture Committee, we have invested over \$4 billion in new conservation efforts that will protect wildlife habitats and increase access for hunters and anglers across the country. Most recently, the Senate passed \$400 million in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to clean up the Great Lakes.

While we have made progress, there is more work to be done. I will continue to work for passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act and the Clean Water Restoration Act, which will help preserve Michigan's 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, including over 1,000 miles of blue-ribbon trout streams. I will also continue to work to ensure access to public lands and waterways.

Working together, we can preserve our natural resources so others can enjoy our rich hunting and fishing heritage for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. CAROLYN PORCO

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I praise Dr. Carolyn Porco, a professor at the University of Colorado, senior researcher at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, CO, and leader of the imaging team for the Cassini mission. In this last role, she has a front row seat on some of the most exciting scientific discoveries of today coming from the Cassini spacecraft, which for 5 years has been orbiting and studying Saturn and its Moons. I have submitted for the RECORD an article about Dr. Porco from the September 21, 2009, edition of the New York Times.

In Colorado, we are extremely proud of our science and technology enterprise. We have 16 Federal laboratories, top-flight research universities and a vibrant private sector pushing the limits on everything from biomedical research to space exploration. But even in this crowded field, Dr. Porco stands out as an exemplary Colorado scientist. She has repeatedly been recognized as one of the top scientific leaders to watch this century both for her scientific accomplishments and her leadership within the scientific community. As the Times article shows, she